

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 (Original) .

Claim 1 (Original) Apparatus, comprising:

- a) a shaft;
- b) a trough radially extending from the shaft; and
- c) a perforated barrier which catches debris, and causes the debris to tumble into the trough.

Claim 2 (Original) Apparatus, comprising:

- a) a shaft;
- b) a first perforated trough supported by the shaft at a first axial position, and extending radially from the shaft;
- c) a second perforated trough supported by the shaft at a second axial position, and extending radially from the shaft; and
- d) a perforated barrier, extending between the first and second troughs.

Claim 3 (Original) Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the first and second perforated troughs occupy different circumferential positions.

Claim 4 (Original) Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein an axis is defined within the shaft, and the perforated barrier is not coplanar with the axis.

Claim 5 (Original) Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the perforated barrier passes sand particles but block debris, when the apparatus is inserted into, and moved within, a fluidized sand bed.

Claim 6 (Original) Apparatus, comprising:

- a) a shaft;

- b) a first trough
 - i) extending radially from the shaft,
 - ii) having a perforated bottom, and
 - iii) having an open top, and
- c) a perforated chute which
 - i) catches debris which moves across the top of the first trough, and
 - ii) delivers the debris to the first trough.

Claim 7 (Original) Apparatus according to claim 6, and further comprising:

- a) a second trough extending radially from the shaft, but at a different axial position than the first trough;
- b) a second perforated chute which
 - i) catches debris which moves across the top of the second trough, and
 - ii) delivers the debris to the second trough.

Claim 8 (Original) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first chute extends between the first and second troughs.

Claim 9 (Original) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the perforated chute is effective to pass sand in a fluidized bed, when the apparatus is moved through said sand.

Claims 10-12. (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Original) Apparatus, comprising:

- a) an elongated support;
- b) a helical surface which
 - i) surrounds, and is attached to, the support; and
 - ii) contains perforations;
- c) a plurality of walls, extending radially from the support, each of which cooperates with the helical surface to form a valley; and

- d) for each valley, an outer wall, upstanding from the helical surface, which bounds the valley.

Claim 14 (Original) A method, comprising:

- a) maintaining a fluidized bed in a tank;
- b) maintaining a controller and at least one program which runs on the controller;
- c) maintaining a crane which
 - i) is controlled by the controller,
 - ii) supports a perforated cage;
- d) causing the controller to move the perforated cage to a sequence of positions within the tank, under control the program, and then remove the perforated cage from the tank.

Claim 15 (Original) Method according to claim 14, and further comprising:

- e) maintaining a second program, which causes the stroller to move the perforated cage to a different sequence of positions within the tank.

Claim 16 (Original) Method according to claim 14, wherein the perforated cage comprises troughs, and further comprising:

- e) causing the perforated cage to rotate and thereby sweep debris in the fluidized bed into the troughs.